

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention is directed to the cloning,
5 sequencing and expression of homologous immunoreactive 28-kDa
protein genes, *p28-1*, -2, -3, -5, -6, -7, -9, from a polymorphic
multiple gene family of *Ehrlichia canis*. Further disclosed is a
multigene locus encoding all nine homologous 28-kDa protein genes
of *Ehrlichia canis*. Recombinant *Ehrlichia canis* 28-kDa proteins react
10 with convalescent phase antiserum from an *E. canis*-infected dog, and
may be useful in the development of vaccines and serodiagnostics
that are particularly effective for disease prevention and
serodiagnosis.